



GRAND GUIGNOL: 8

STAR MAN



NO. 69
SEP '00

ROBINSON
SNEJBJERG
SMITH



ROBINSON
2000



'OW GOES IT, O'DARE?

THE LOOTING?



NO, THE CREAM
TEA LUNCHEON WITH
THE TEMPERANCE
LEAGUE-- 'COURSE
I MEAN THE
LOOTIN'.

I DON'T
FEEL YOU
SHOULD TALK
TO ME LIKE
THAT, CULP.



MR. CULP, BARRY, AND
'OW SHOULD I SPEAK
TO A TREACHEROUS
PIECE O' DOG'S WALLOP
LIKE YOU?

NOW, 'OW'S
THE BLEEDIN'
LOOTIN'?



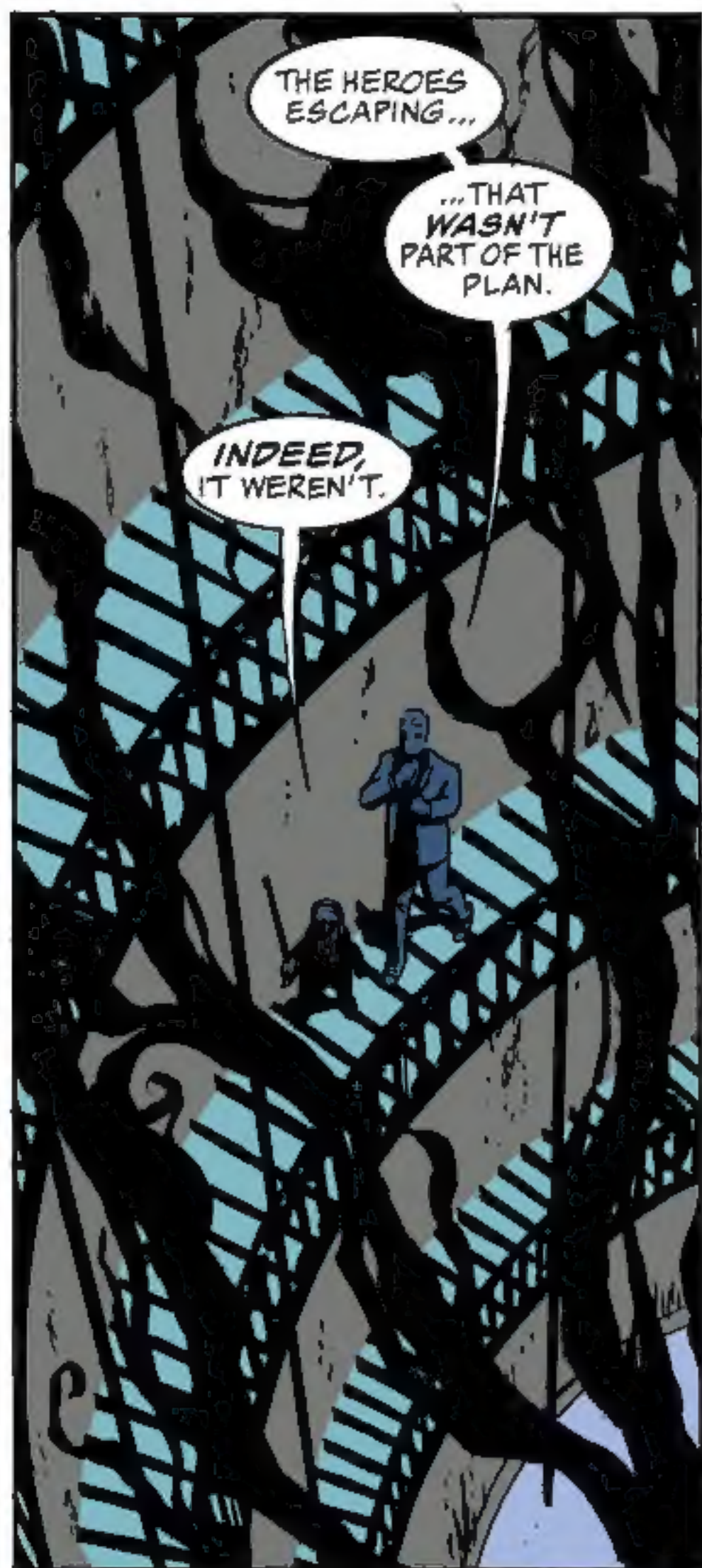
"THE MEN ARE
DOING AS THEY'RE
TOLD. THEY'RE
SWEEPING THROUGH
THE CITY ARRONDIS-
SMENT BY
ARRONDISSEMENT.
IT'S NOT PRETTY.



"THE MIST HUNTS FOR JACK KNIGHT.



"AS DO GRUNDY, RAGDOLL
AND CRUSHER."



THE HEROES
ESCAPING...

...THAT
WASN'T
PART OF THE
PLAN.

INDEED,
IT WEREN'T.



HAS THAT
HURT
US?

NO.



THEIR CAPTURE
BOUGHT US TIME. IN
THAT TIME WE TOOK
CONTROL O' THE
CITY. WE STILL 'AVE
THAT CONTROL.

IF THE HEROES
'AD BEEN ABOUT
UNFETTERED, THINK
'OW MUCH 'ARDER
THAT WOULD'A
BEEN.

WE'RE
JIM DANDY,
US.



NOW
LEAVE ME
TO BEGIN THE
RITE.

YES,
I HAVE AN
ERRAND OF
MY OWN.

MY
BROTHERS... TWO
OF THEM AT LEAST
... HAVE LOVE IN
THEIR LIVES. THAT
MAY BE
USEFUL.



WHEN DO
YOU THINK THE
HEROES WILL
STRIKE?

SOON.
NOT YET.
RELAX,
O'DARE...

Grand Guignol Neuvieme Partie

Heroes Reborn, Renewed... And Remembered

"... WE 'AVE MORE
TIME THAN THEY DO."

WHAT IS
THIS PLACE,
JACK?

MY
FATHER'S ... I
DUNNO, EXACTLY
... HIS STORAGE
VAULT. ANSWERSON
A POSTCARD WHY
HE WANTS HALF
THIS STUFF.

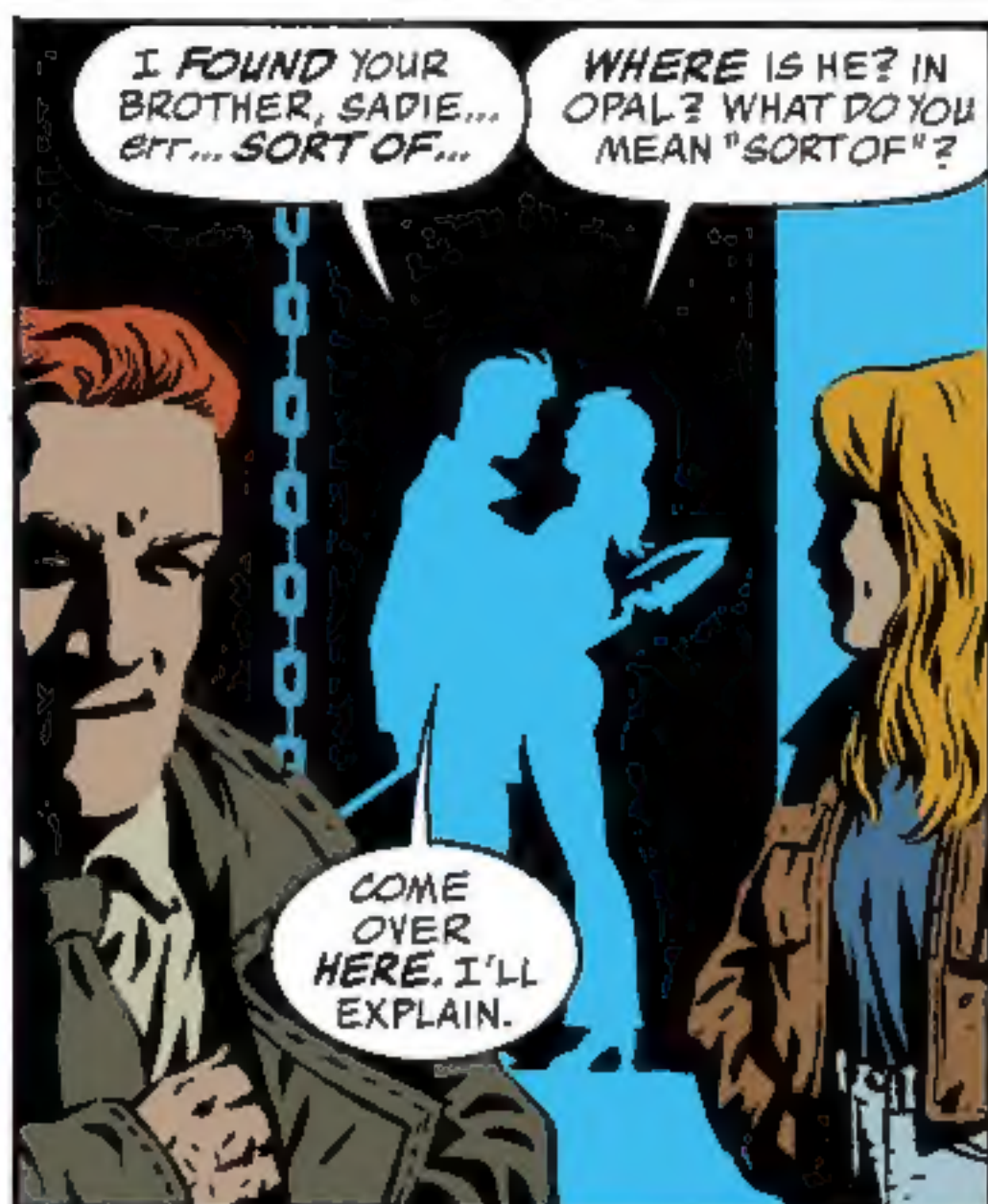
ROBINSON · SNEJBORG · SMITH · OAKLEY · WRIGHT · JAMISON · WILLIAMS · TOMASI · GOODWIN · Jack Knight created
writer · artist · artist · letterer · colorist · seps · assistant ed. · editor · guiding light · by Robinson & Harris

NOW I
KNOW WHERE
YOU GET YOUR
COLLECTING
JONES...

NOT FROM
DAD, NO.



JACK,
BABY, I
MISSED
YOU SO!



I FOUND YOUR
BROTHER, SADIE...
ERR... SORT OF...

WHERE IS HE? IN
OPAL? WHAT DO YOU
MEAN "SORT OF"?

COME
OVER
HERE. I'LL
EXPLAIN.



SO WE NEED
A PLAN.



WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND
THE THREAT FIRST, CLARENCE.



I HAVE JUST THE,
err... PERSON
TO TELL US.

THIS IS
SMUDGE. HE'S
A DARK FEY...
ONE OF THE
SHADE'S SHADOW
BEINGS.



IS IT SAFE FOR
HIM TO BE HERE? I
MEAN, WITH CULP
HAVING THE SAME
POWER AND ALL.

MY DEAR LADY,
MOST LUSCIOUS SO, YOUR
COSTUME BRIGHT AND SKIMPY
... I AM A LOVER, NOT A
FIGHTER. EVEN THE FLIES
BREATHE EASILY AROUND ME.



I AM MY DEAR MASTER
SHADE'S FINEST CREATION.
HE SAID THIS TO ME ONE FINE
JUNE DAY... HE SAID I AM THE
BEST OF HIM. I TAKE
PRIDE IN THAT.

PERHAPS IT IS THAT
PRIDE THAT PREVENTED
ME FROM SUCCUMBING TO
CORRUPTION LIKE THE
OTHER DARK FEYS.

THEY ARE
CULP'S NOW.

SO WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

BEING SO VERY ATTUNED TO THE SHADE, I WAS UNAWARE OF CULP'S PRESENCE AS WAS MY MASTER.

BUT I KNOW SOME THINGS.

I KNOW THAT EVERYTHING CULP HAS SO FAR CLAIMED WOULD OCCUR IS TRUE. THERE IS LOOTING AND THERE WILL BE THE DESTRUCTION OF OPAL CITY... DRAWN INTO A HOLLOW VOID DIMENSION IF CULP HAS HIS WAY.

UNLESS WE STOP HIM.

I KNOW THAT THIS IS SOMEHOW TIED TO THE BLACK PIRATE... JON VALOR, A GHOST... AND MORE IMPORTANT, A CURSE HE LEVELED UPON THE CITY AT THE TIME OF HIS EXECUTION.

THE RITE... THE MIXTURE OF ARCANES DABBING ALONG WITH THE POWER OF THE SHADOW WORLD IS WHAT HOLDS THE CITY IN THE ORB-EBONY PRISON.

IT IS THAT SAME RITE WHICH WHEN INCREASED OR EXTENDED OR WHATEVER THE TERM FOR SUCH AN ACTION IS... WILL DRAG THIS CITY FOREVER INTO THE SHADOWS.

WHY?

BECAUSE CULP SEEKS TO KILL THE THING THE SHADE LOVES MOST. IF MY MASTER LOVED A WOMAN OR A MIGHTY OAK, THEN THAT WOMAN WOULD BE DEAD OR THE OAK KINDLING AND WE'D BE SPARED THIS TROUBLE.

OPAL CITY, I'M SAD TO SAY, IS PAYING FOR THE SHADE'S LOVE OF IT.

WHAT WERE YOU DOING HERE, ADAM?

I WAS HERE TO SPEAK TO YOUR FATHER... TELL HIM YOU WERE SAFE IN OUTER SPACE.

WHY?

ARE MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER ALIVE?

YEAH.

THERE'S YOUR ANSWER. LIKE I SAID ON RANN, MY DEBT TO YOU IS GREATER THAN ANYTHING.

HOWEVER, NO SOONER DID I ARRIVE THAN I BECAME AWARE OF EVIL. I DEDUCED THAT THE ABSENCE OF CRIMINALITY IN OPAL BODED FOR MUCH TO COME. TO THAT END I WAS CONSTRUCTING A ZETA BEAM TRIANGULATION... A LARGER FORM OF TELEPORTATION BEAM.

THAT WAS DONE ON THRONE WORLD... IT BROUGHT TROOPS FROM RANN... TURNED THE TIDE OF REVOLUTION.



SO SARDATH PULLED OFF THAT STUNT, DID HE? I WONDERED IF HE WOULD. ANYWAY, MY IDEA IS TO DUPLICATE THE SAME... TURN THE TIDE IN YOUR CITY'S FAVOR.

BUT IF THE ZETA BEAM CAN'T BREACH THE BARRIER--

NO WAY, JOSÉ. YOU GOT IT.

ARE YOU CRYING, SADIE?



JACK TOLD ME DISAPPOINTING NEWS. I'M A LITTLE SAD, BUT AT LEAST MY HONEY'S BACK WITH ME.

I JUST HOPED THAT HE WOULDN'T BE ALONE.

IT'S BEEN A DAY FOR DISAPPOINTMENTS, GIRL. THAT'S FOR SURE.



YOU TALKING 'BOUT BARRY, SIS?

BROTHER TURNS QUISLING, ALL OF US O'DARES LOOK BAD... AND THE MEMORY OF ALL WHO CAME BEFORE.



I'M SORRY, WHAT YOU'RE DISCUSSING IS MORE IMPORTANT.



YOU'LL LEAD US, ADAM?

NO, JACK, THIS ISN'T MY CITY.

CLARENCE? YOU'RE COMMISSIONER.

AND I'LL BE BEHIND YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY, JACK, BUT YOU'RE OPAL'S CHAMPION.

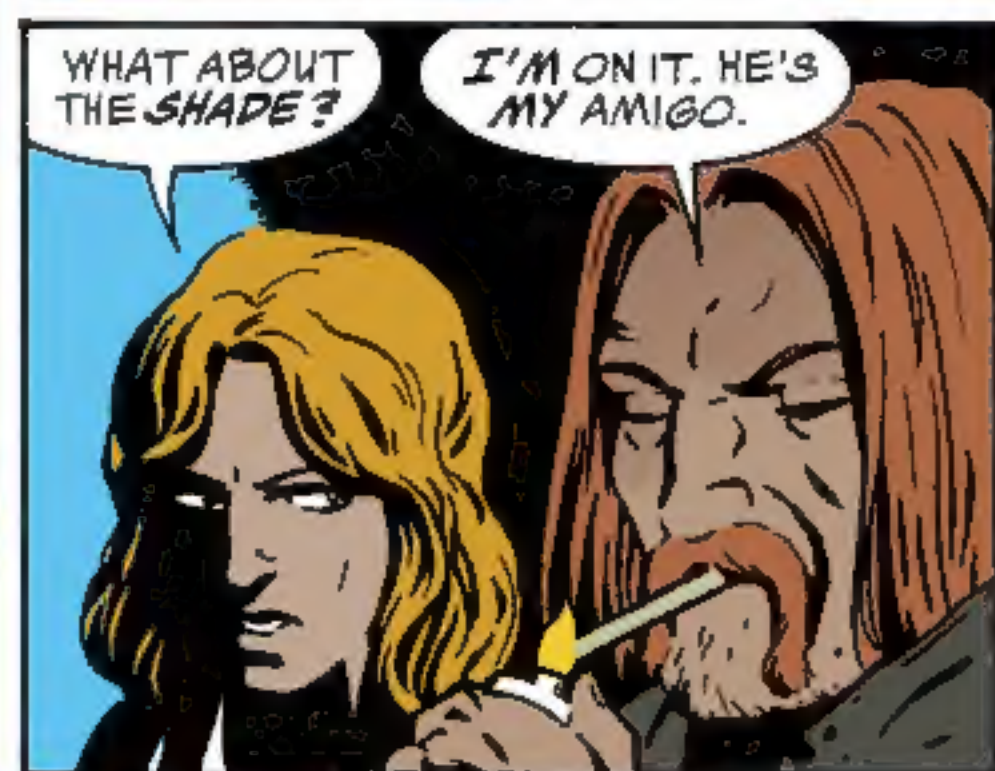
I'M NOT A LEADER. I'VE SAID THAT BEFORE.



YOU ARE TODAY.

THE CLOCK IS TICKING, IF WE'RE GOING TO HELP OPAL, KINDLY SIR JACK.







MY, MY--
AREN'T YOU
THE FAMILIAR
FACE?

I THOUGHT
YOU HAD THE
COMMON SENSE
TO DIE.



I'M THE SON
OF MY FATHER.

A LUDLOW?

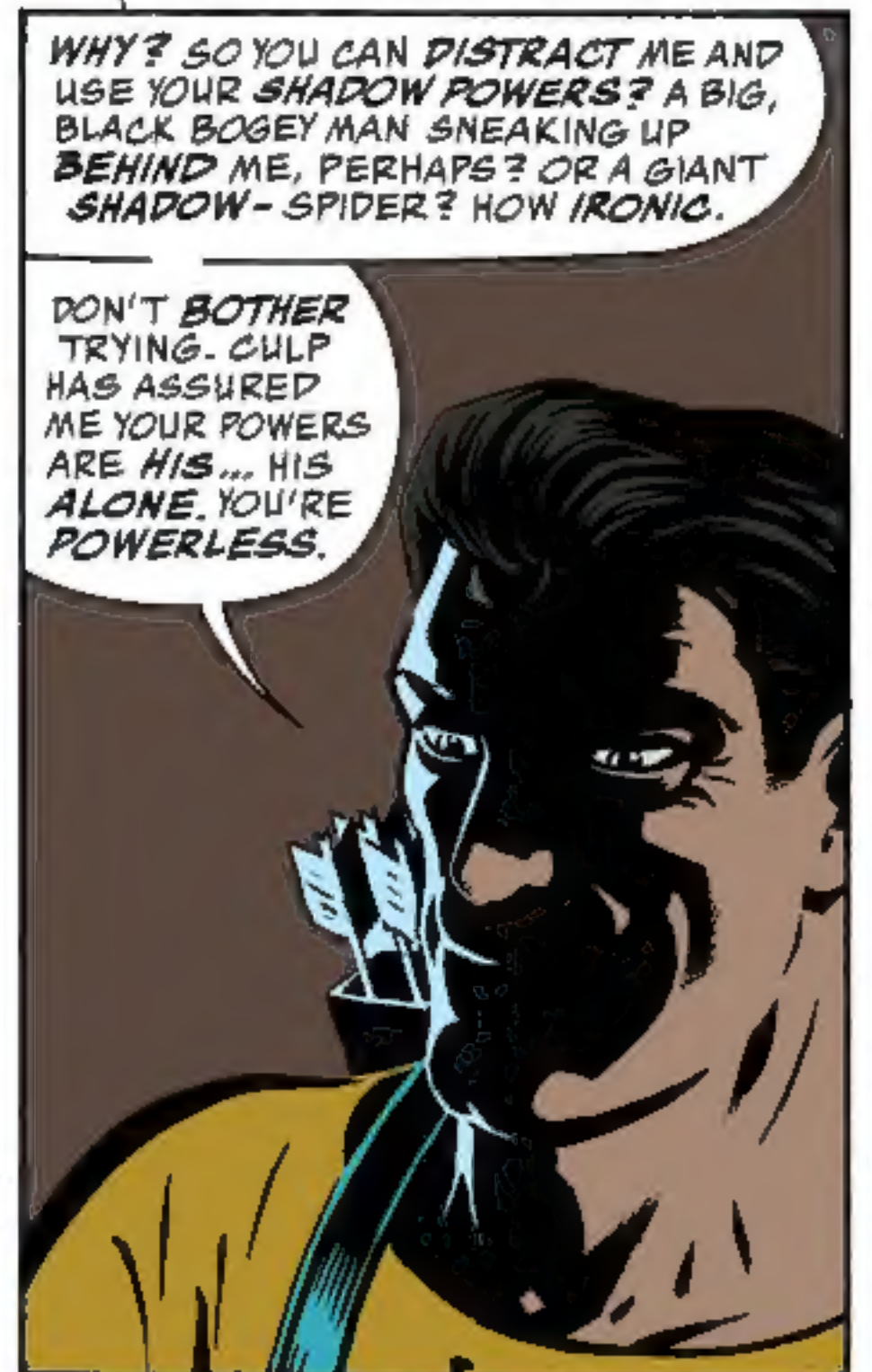
MY NAME
IS LUCAS
LUDLOW-DALT
... ALIAS, THE
SPIDER.



WHO GAVE YOU
THAT NAME?

MY
MOTHER.

TELL
ME ABOUT
HER.



WHY? SO YOU CAN DISTRACT ME AND
USE YOUR *SHADOW POWERS*? A BIG,
BLACK BOGEY MAN SNEAKING UP
BEHIND ME, PERHAPS? OR A GIANT
SHADOW-SPIDER? HOW IRONIC.

DON'T BOTHER
TRYING. CULP
HAS ASSURED
ME YOUR POWERS
ARE HIS... HIS
ALONE. YOU'RE
POWERLESS.



STILL WANT TO KNOW
ABOUT MY MOM?

WHY NOT?
I'VE NOTHING
BETTER TO
DO.



SHE WAS A REPORTER.
LINDA DALT. KEYSTONE-
BASED. SHE INTERVIEWED MY
FATHER DURING THE PERIOD
THAT CITY THOUGHT HE WAS
A GOOD GUY.

ONE THING LED
TO ANOTHER...



I GET THE
PICTURE.

EVEN AFTER HIS DARK
SIDE WAS EXPOSED,
SHE LOVED HIM... HIS
MEMORY, I GUESS WOULD
BE MORE ACCURATE...
THANKS TO YOU.

AS I DISCOVERED
MORE ABOUT HIM... HIS
STRENGTHS AND WEAK-
NESSES... SHE DIDN'T
GET IN THE WAY OF MY
BECOMING WHO I AM.



IN FACT, I
THINK SHE
KIND OF
GROOVED
ON IT.

SOUNDS
DELIGHTFUL. A
GREEK TRAGEDY
WAITING TO
HAPPEN.



WHY THE
SMILE?

THE SCENARIO NOW
IS A **FAMILIAR** ONE
TO ME. IT WAS SOME-
THING LIKE THIS WHEN
YOUR FATHER **DIED**.

OH, YEAH?
WELL, **THIS**
TIME IT'S
YOU WHO
DIES.



IT'S FUNNY...
HYSTERICAL.

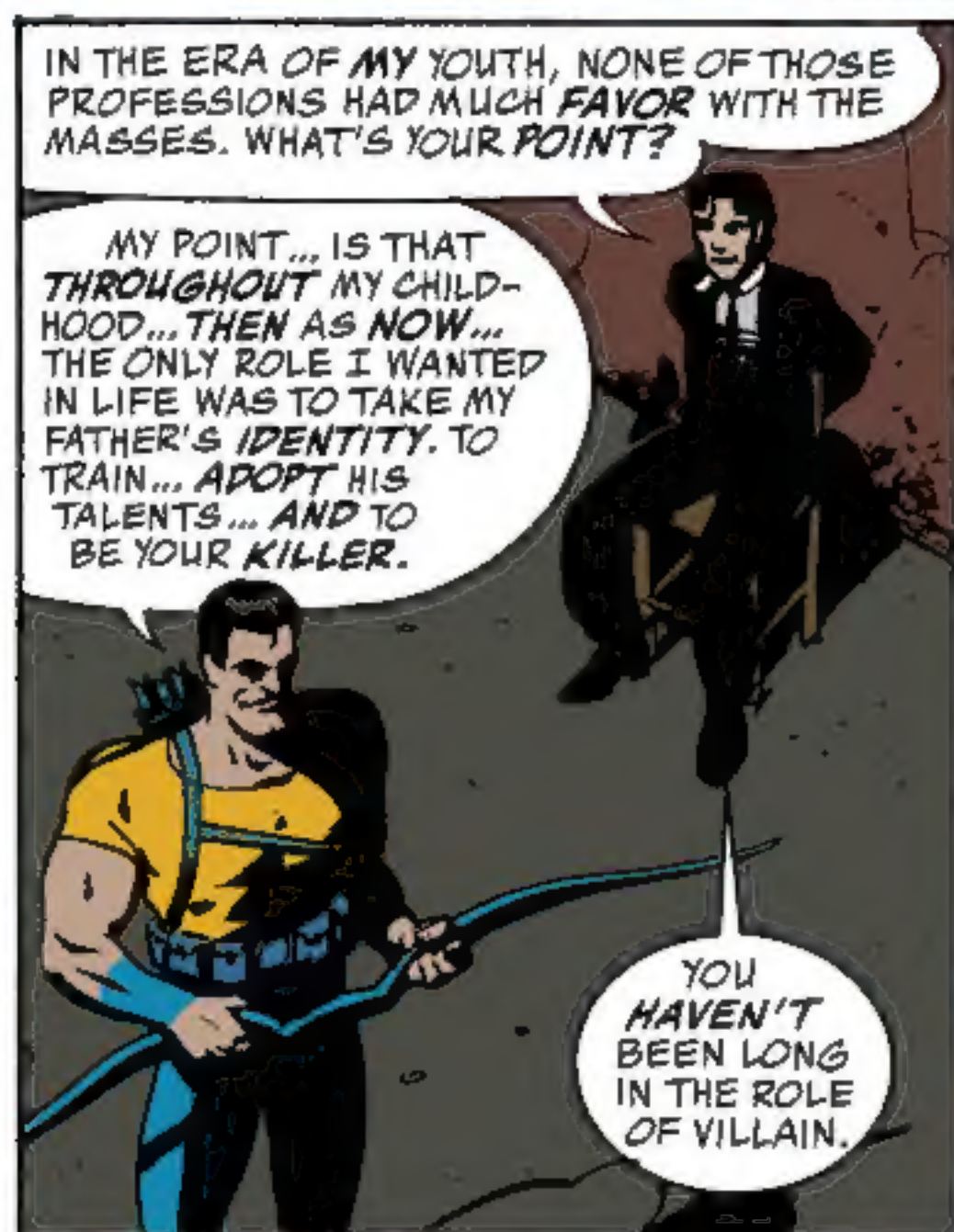
FUNNY
STRANGE. DO YOU
KNOW HOW
KIDS ALL
WANT TO
BE SOME-
THING
WHEN THEY
GROW UP?



I'M **NOT SURE** I DO.

WHEN
YOU'RE A **KID**...

DIDN'T YOU HAVE SOME
DREAM... TO BE A
RACE CAR DRIVER
OR AN ASTRONAUT
OR A HOLLYWOOD
STAR?



IN THE ERA OF MY YOUTH, NONE OF THOSE
PROFESSIONS HAD MUCH **FAVOR** WITH THE
MASSSES. WHAT'S YOUR **POINT**?

MY POINT... IS THAT
THROUGHOUT MY CHILD-
HOOD... **THEN AS NOW**...
THE ONLY ROLE I WANTED
IN LIFE WAS TO TAKE MY
FATHER'S **IDENTITY**. TO
TRAIN... **ADOPT** HIS
TALENTS... **AND TO**
BE YOUR KILLER.

YOU
HAVEN'T
BEEN LONG
IN THE **ROLE**
OF **VILLAIN**.



I'VE **ALREADY**
COMMITTED MY **SHARE**
OF **CRIMES**. I DON'T
REGARD BEING **NEW**
AS ONE OF THEM.



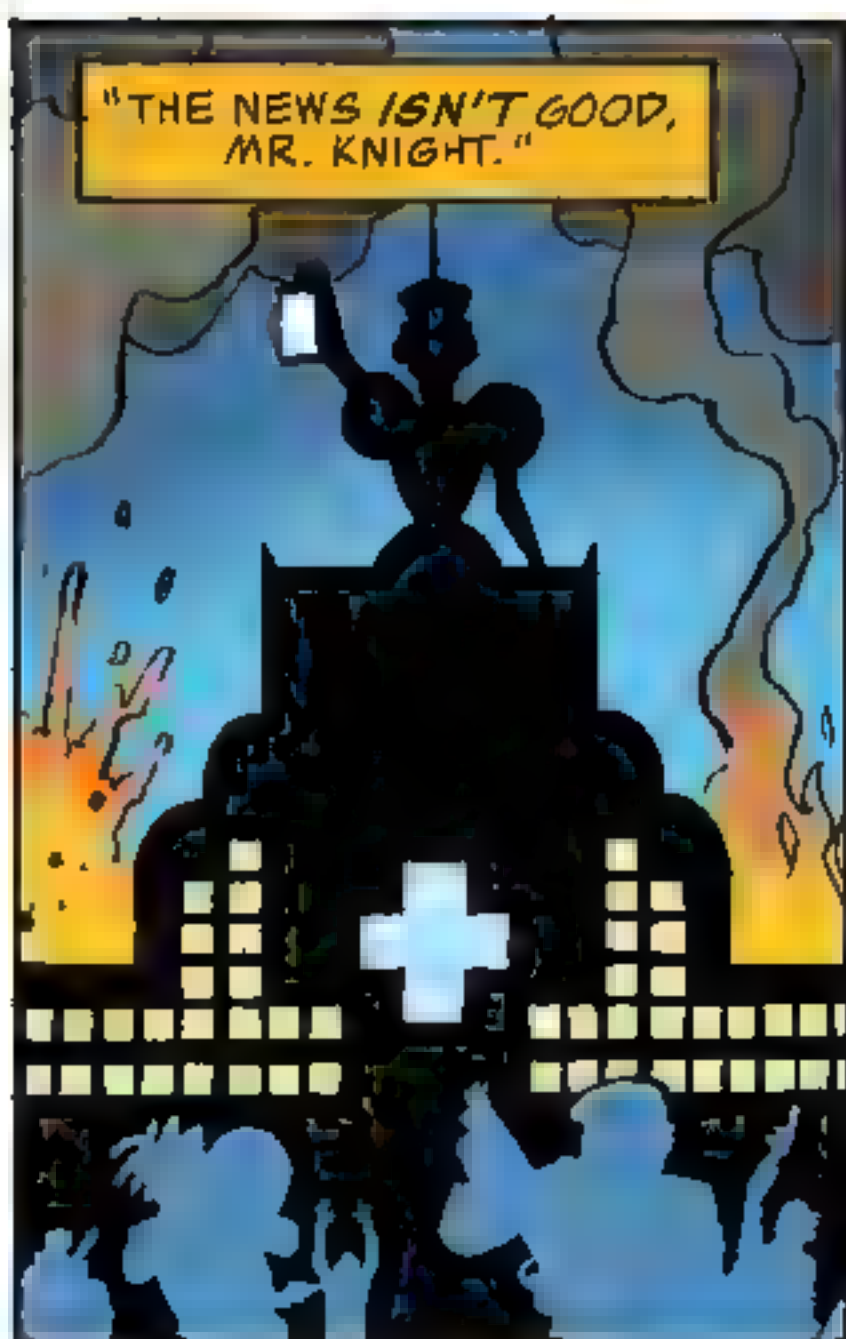
BUT I
ADMIT I
HAVE THINGS
TO **LEARN**.

YOU
ACKNOWLEDGE
YOUR **WEAKNESS**...
THAT IS A
STRENGTH. PER-
HAPS YOU ARE
DANGEROUS.



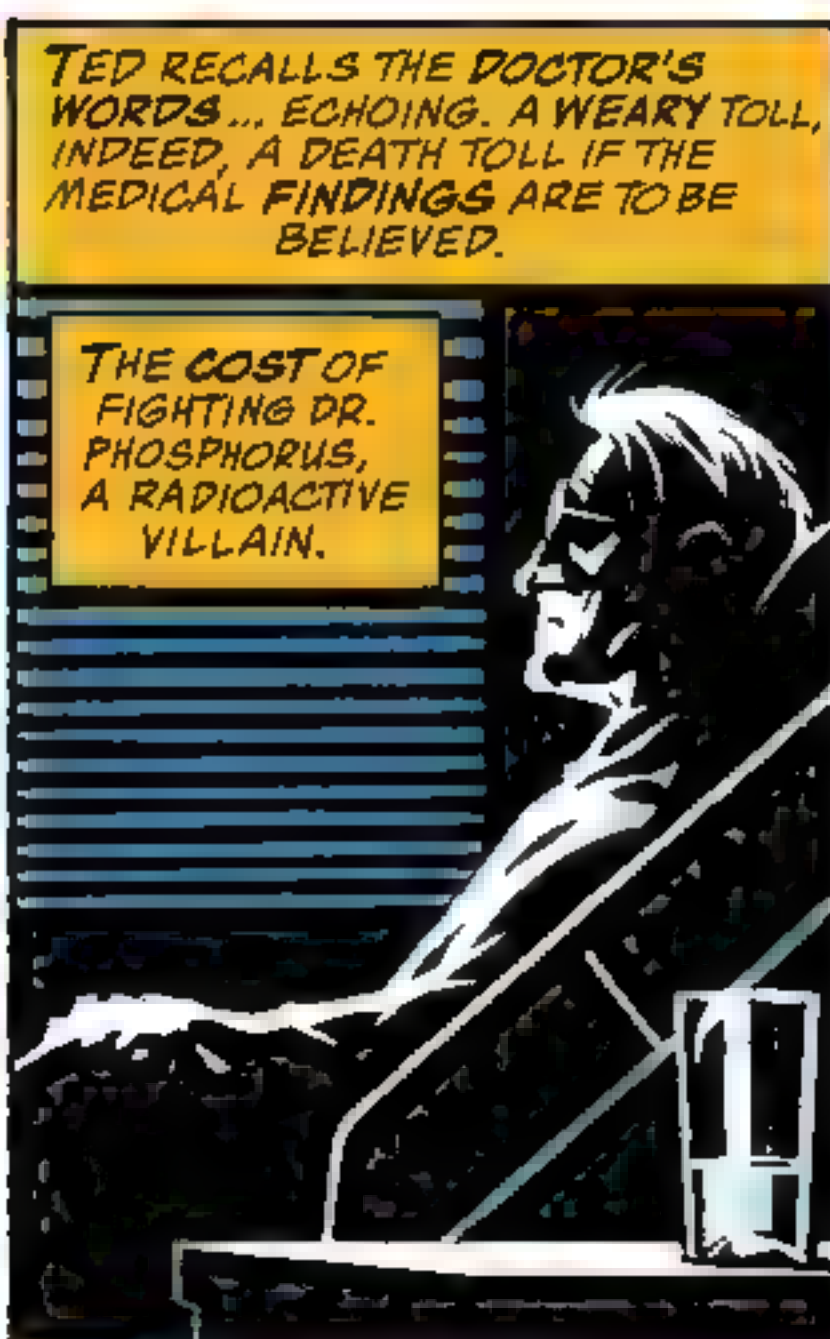
PERHAPS
YOU'LL **KILL**
ME AT THAT.

"THE NEWS ISN'T GOOD, MR. KNIGHT."



TED RECALLS THE DOCTOR'S WORDS... ECHOING. A WEARY TOLL, INDEED, A DEATH TOLL IF THE MEDICAL FINDINGS ARE TO BE BELIEVED.

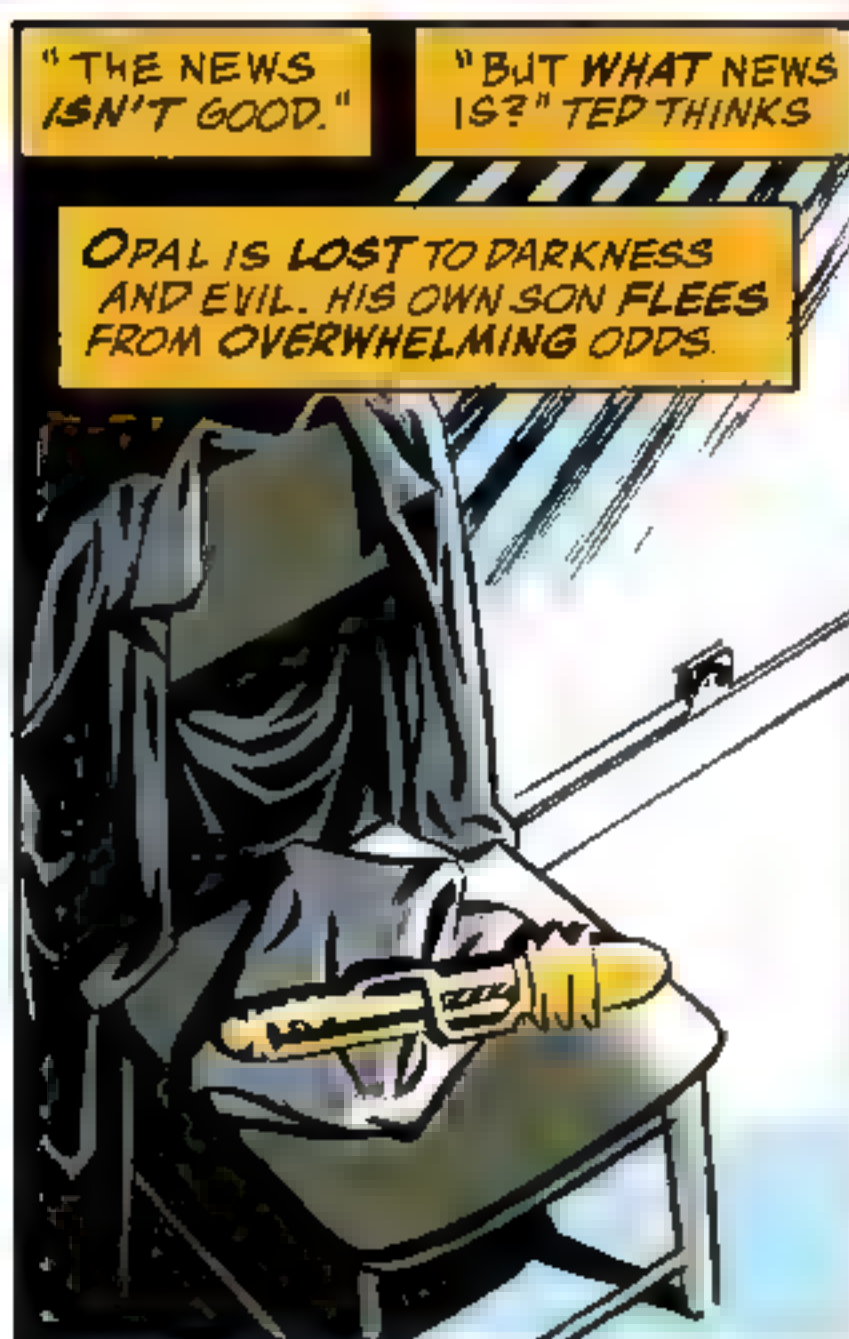
THE COST OF FIGHTING DR. PHOSPHORUS, A RADIOACTIVE VILLAIN.



"THE NEWS ISN'T GOOD."

"BUT WHAT NEWS IS?" TED THINKS

OPAL IS LOST TO DARKNESS AND EVIL. HIS OWN SON FLEES FROM OVERWHELMING ODDS.



TED, "AN OLD MAN"... SO VERY OLD HE FEELS THIS DAY... IS ALSO A LITTLE SCARED.

"DOES FEAR COME WITH AGE AND THE CERTAINTY OF MORTALITY?"



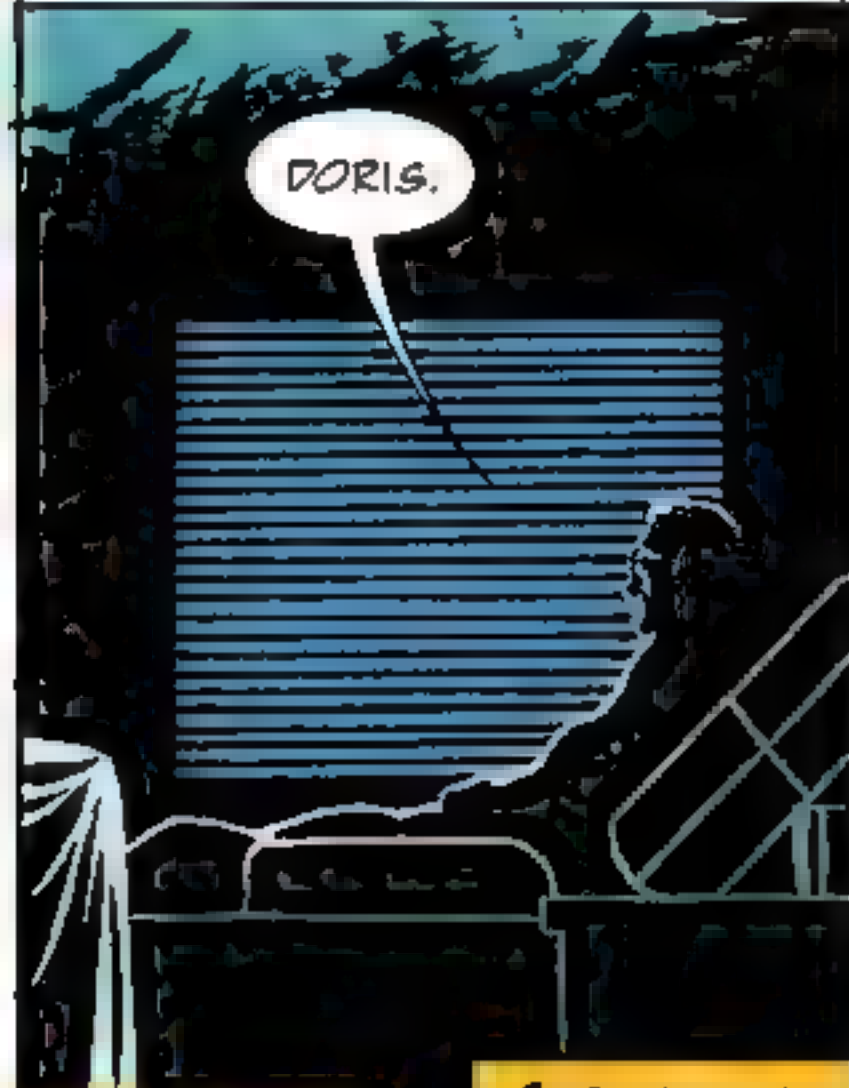
"MY LIFE... HAVE I DONE AS MUCH AS I CAN... HAVE I--"

-A THOUGHT. UNBIDDEN. A MEMORY.

OF ONE WHO DIDN'T GET TO SEE HER OLD AGE. OF ONE WHO NEVERTHELESS FACED HER OWN MORTALITY WITHOUT FEAR.



DORIS.



DORIS LEE, TED KNIGHT'S FIRST GREAT LOVE.

SHE WORE THE GREEN AND RED TOO, AT ONE TIME, TED RECOLLECTS.

FOR ONE DAY. THE IMAGES FROM THEN FLOOD UPON HIM.

TED WARMS IN THE GLOW OF YESTERDAY, THE IDYLL DOING WELL TO MASK THE LOOMING NOTHINGNESS OF TED'S TOMORROWS.



"HMM," HE PONDERES. "WHAT DO I RECALL? WHICH OF THE EVENTS OF DORIS' NIGHT IN STARMAN'S GLOW DO I REMEMBER..."

"THERE ARE MANY ACCOUNTS OF TIMES PAST... RUMORS..."



"THE JSA'S ADVENTURES... THE BIOGRAPHERS... COBBLING TOGETHER DIME-A-WORD HALF-TRUTHS FROM NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS.

"THESE ARE THE REAL, TRUE FACTS AS I RECALL THEM



"AS REAL AND TRUE AND FACTUAL AS AN OLD MAN'S MEMORIES CAN BE..."



-- It began with the JSA --
the members all away on
separate cases.

Wonder Woman -- Polly --
worked out something us
dumb men didn't see --

-- that one person
was behind it all.

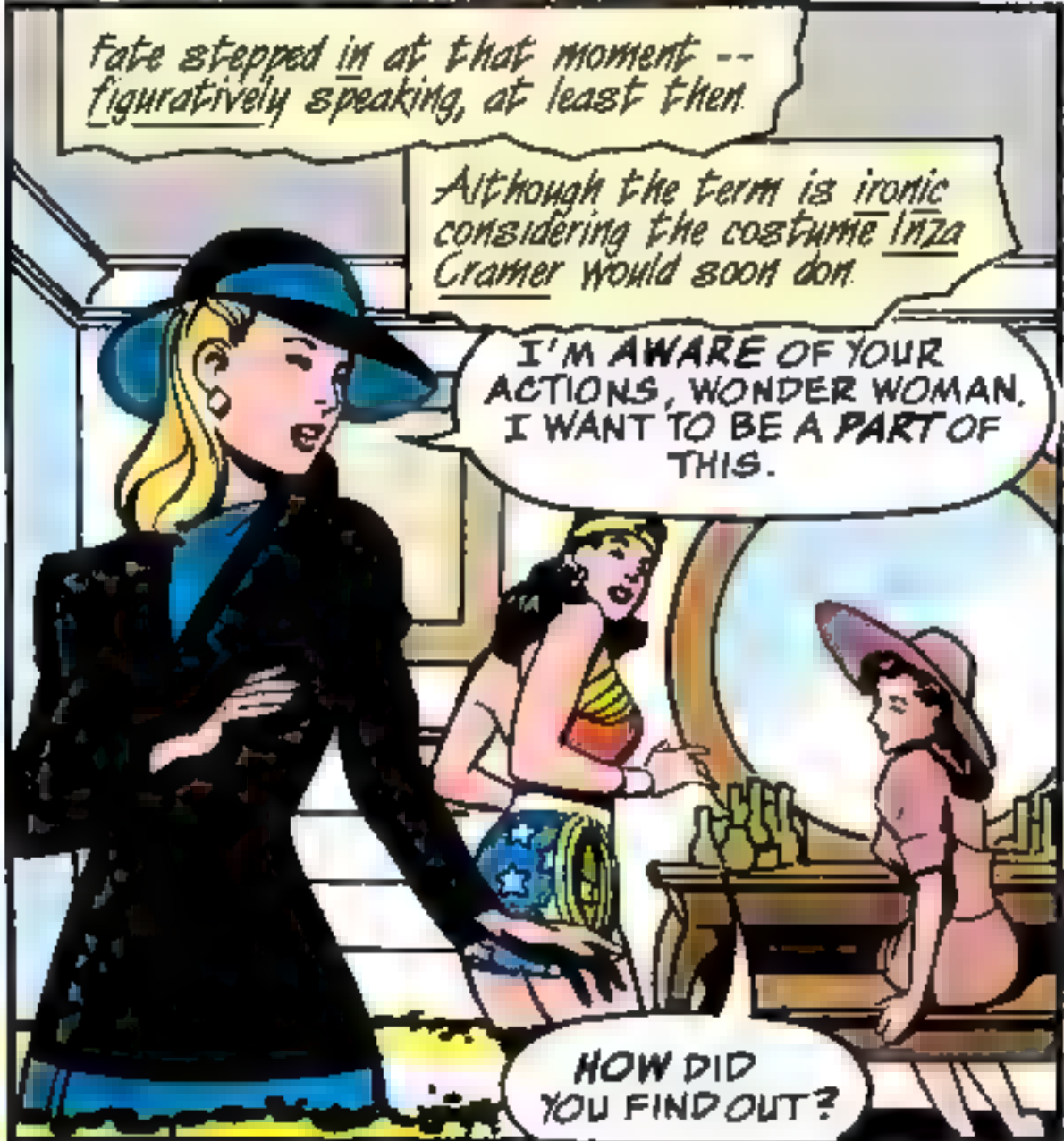
She took an unusual step
at that point --

Dear Wonder Woman,
Sorry to be absent from the meeting, but
I've become involved in a fantastic affair!
I've met some men who disappear when you touch
them! And, what is worse...these men are
killers. They've already shot down a man,
and now it's up to me to try prevent further
murders. I must follow up such clues
I have, for this strange sordid scheme
is too dangerous to be left unchallenged...



-- she went to a woman closest to
one of us --

SHIERA SANDERS,
HAWKMAN IS IN DANGER.
AS HE GOES ABOUT HIS
EXPLOIT, THE MASTERMIND
OF THIS CRIME GOES
UNCHECKED.

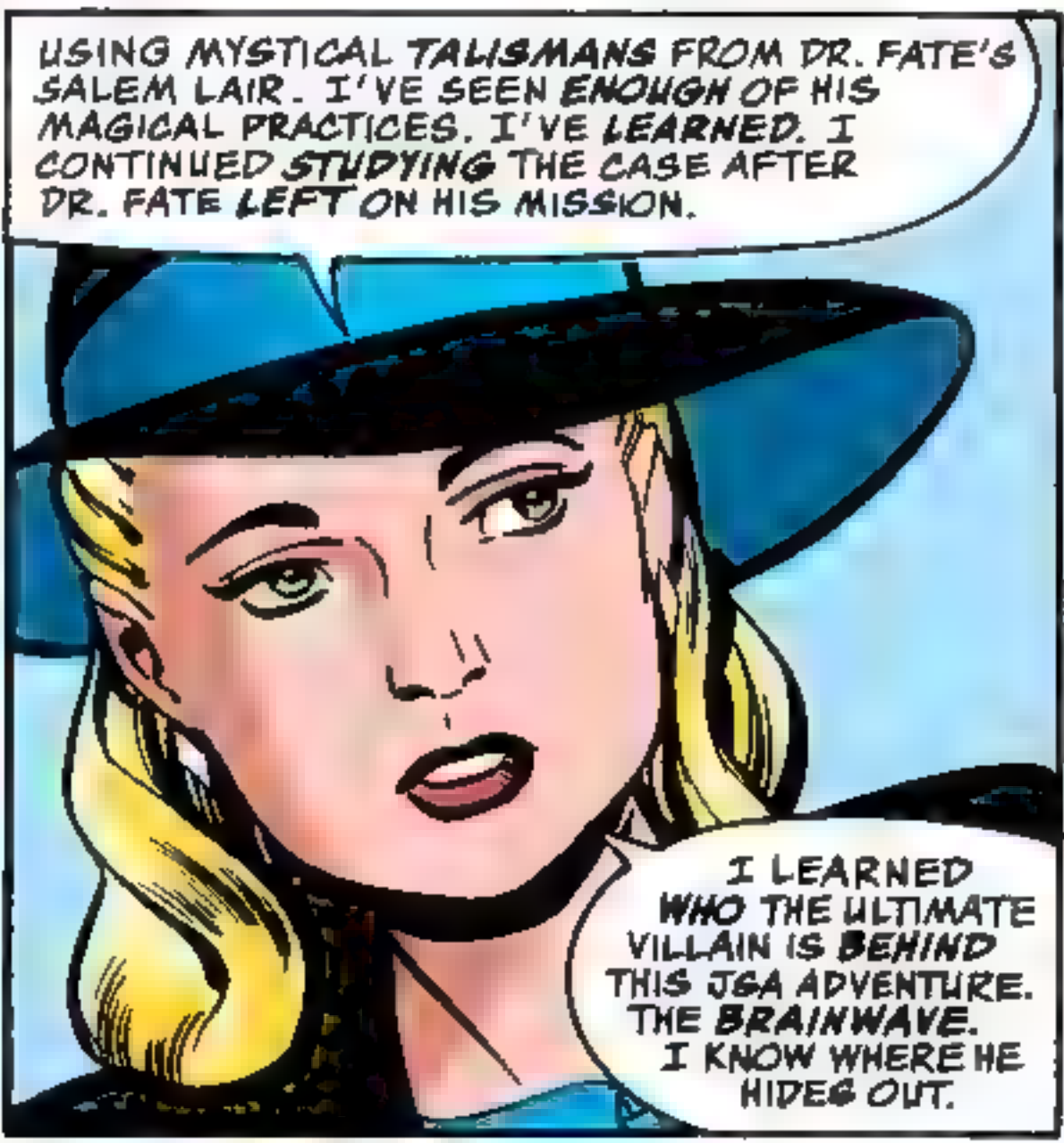


Fate stepped in at that moment --
figuratively speaking, at least then

Although the term is ironic
considering the costume Inza
Cramer would soon don.

I'M AWARE OF YOUR
ACTIONS, WONDER WOMAN.
I WANT TO BE A PART OF
THIS.

HOW DID
YOU FIND OUT?



USING MYSTICAL TALISMANS FROM DR. FATE'S
SALEM LAIR. I'VE SEEN ENOUGH OF HIS
MAGICAL PRACTICES. I'VE LEARNED. I
CONTINUED STUDYING THE CASE AFTER
DR. FATE LEFT ON HIS MISSION.

I LEARNED
WHO THE ULTIMATE
VILLAIN IS BEHIND
THIS JSA ADVENTURE.
THE BRAINWAVE.
I KNOW WHERE HE
HIDES OUT.



BUT IF THE MEN ARE
ALL AWAY, HOW WILL WE
REACH THEM?

SEEING THE
PAIR OF YOU
TOGETHER MAKES
ME THINK--

"--PERHAPS WE WON'T HAVE TO"

Inza used her magic further --

-- She uncovered the secret lives of other heroes. Their girlfriends.

And after they came to terms with revelations about their boyfriends' identities --

Inza wore Dr Fate's blue and gold, of course without Nabu's power. Just the little arcane skill that was her own.

Jim Corrigan's girl -- a tragic soul. She loved a ghost after all.

Dian Belmont was different. She knew of Wesley's other life, having walked the same dark path beside him in the time before Sandy Hawkins.

-- Plans were hatched. Costumes were hemmed.

What can I say? It was a different time.

Shiera knew of Carter Hall's other life, although this was a little before she officially took on the mantle of Hawkgirl herself.

Looking back, perhaps this was the seed. There was a spare pair of wings. She wore them.

She wore the Spectre's cloak and cowl -- although what good she thought she'd do, I'm not quite sure.

"Peachy Pet," Johnny Thunder's ward, was an annoyance. I suppose that made her an apt replacement for Johnny in that time when he was less the hero than he later became.

Doris Lee -- my girl -- was astonished when she learned that tired, bored Red Knight was Opal City's champion.

But like the others she saw the challenge. She met it, even locating one of my spare rods and costumes.

And there they were.

I've read of other accounts. Other girlfriends. A Female Dr. Mid-Nite and Atom.

Fiction.

THERE'S THE SECRET BASE OF THE ONE BEHIND THIS...

...THE BRAINWAVE! LET'S GO GET HIM, GIRLS!

LEMME AT HIM!



They entered, ready
for anything

Unfortunately,
the Brainwave
was ready for
them

The ISA were already
there. They attacked.

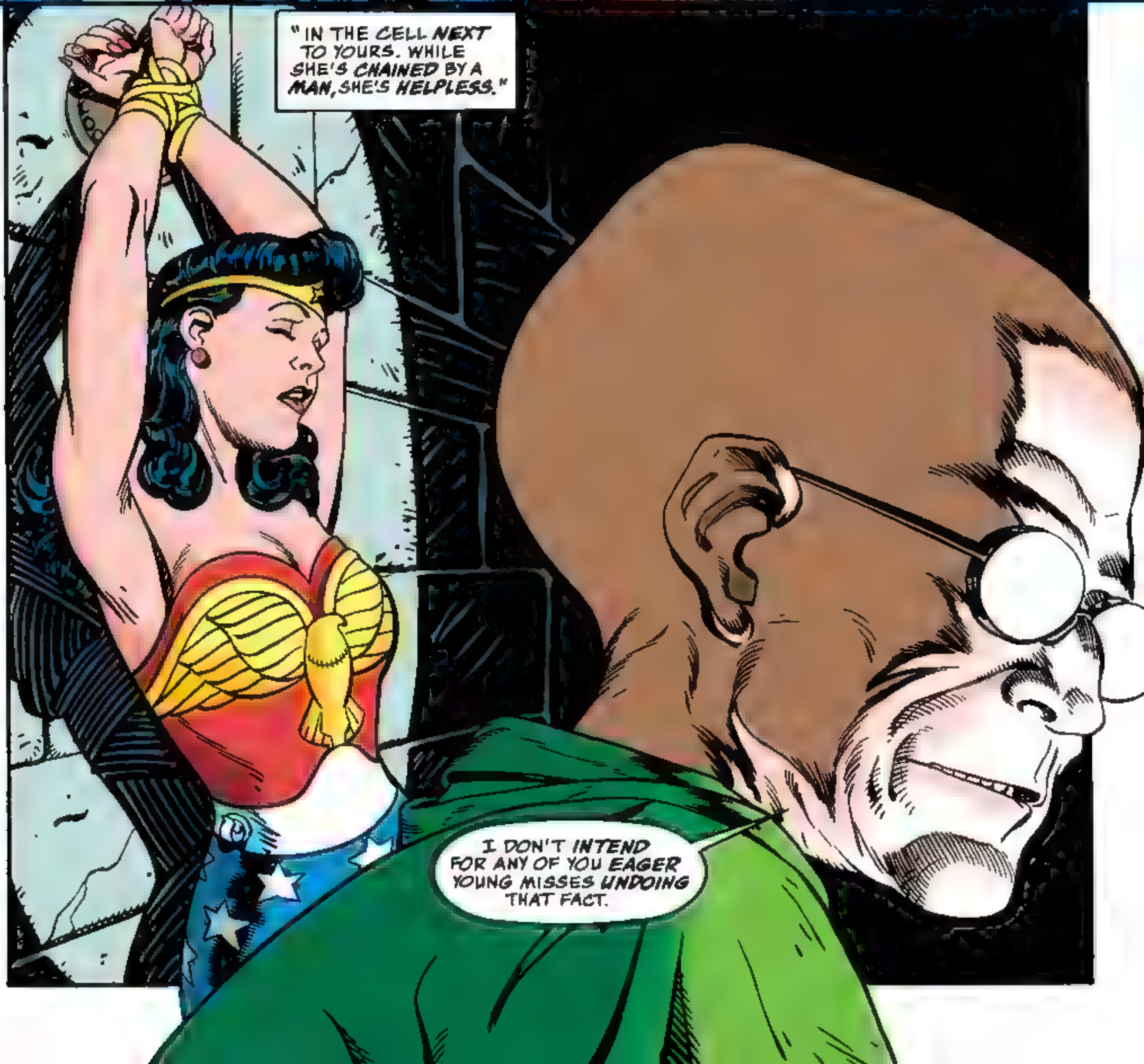
All "thought images" the Brainwave
created. The heroes were really his aides
Thugs and Yeggs.



THE JSA WILL
UNCOVER MY
INVOLVEMENT. IT'S
INEVITABLE.

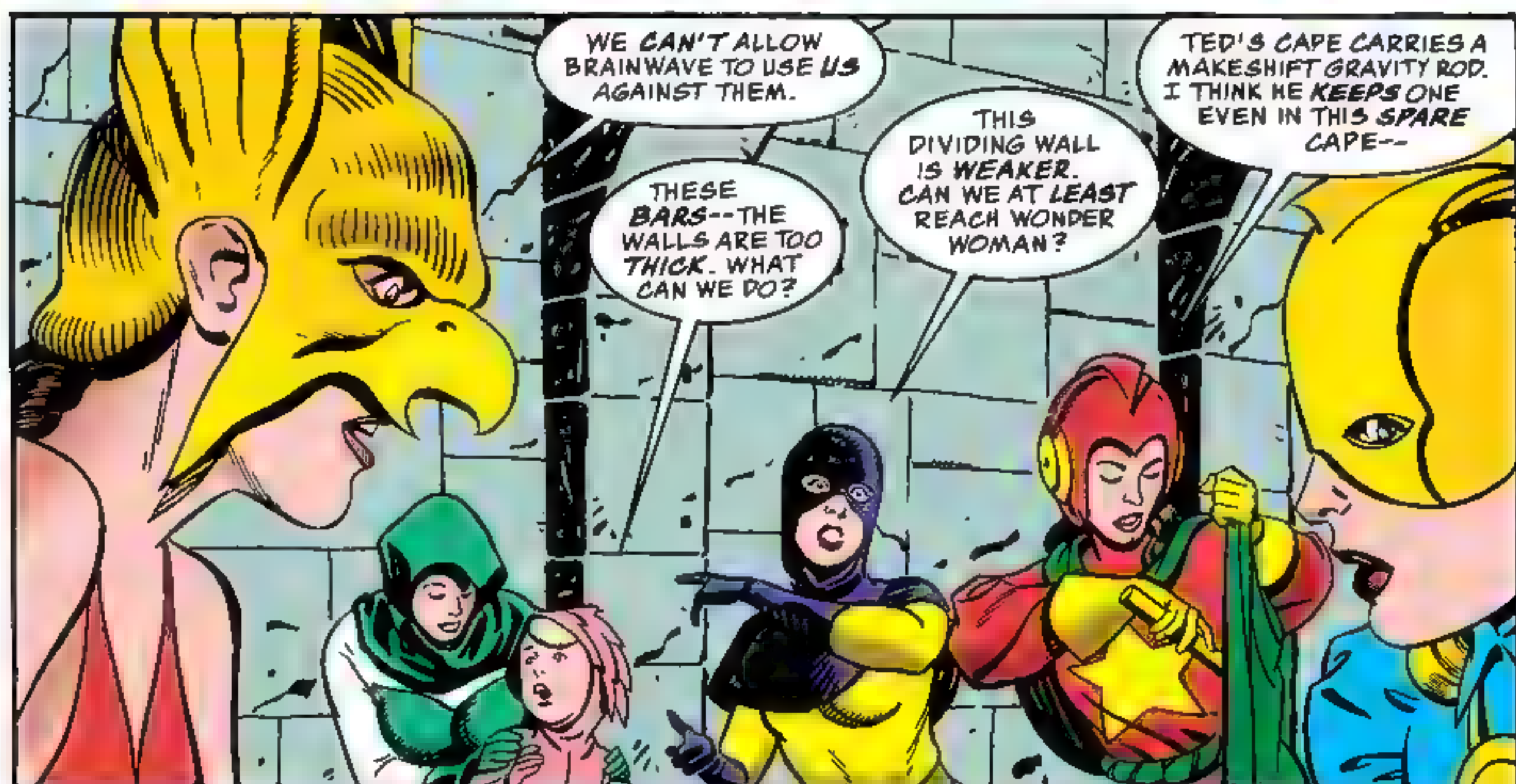
BUT I RETAIN THE
ADVANTAGE. WITH YOU
AS HOSTAGES, THE HEROES'
HANDS WILL BE AS TIED AS
WONDER WOMAN'S.

WHERE
IS SHE?



"IN THE CELL NEXT
TO YOURS. WHILE
SHE'S CHAINED BY A
MAN, SHE'S HELPLESS."

I DON'T INTEND
FOR ANY OF YOU EAGER
YOUNG MISSES UNDOING
THAT FACT.





The attack upon the villains
then came from two sides.

The ISA entered in
our way We big, dumb
men

While, within
the castle...

...the women fought
their way to freedom.

Fought like
champions



It was a strange moment in the ISA's annals.

From it, one true hero would soon emerge.

While others would return to their old lives -- thanks to Dr. Fate and the Spectre casting a combined spell on the girls that would wipe their memories of their boyfriends' secrets.



But before that, one hero and his girl would share a moment --

-- an exchange



QUITE A SURPRISE.

WAS IT?

YES. YES
AND NO. THE
MINUTE I KNEW,
A LOT OF THINGS
SUDDENLY MADE
SENSE. ALL THE
HEADACHES AND
SILLY EXCUSES FOR
YOU TO DISAPPEAR
WHEN CRIME
WAS NEAR.

MY
BOYFRIEND IS
STARMAN.

DOES THAT
MAKE YOU
LOVE ME
MORE?

I'M NOT
SURE.

PART OF ME IS EXCITED.
WHAT GIRL WOULDN'T
BE? BUT PART OF ME IS
SCARED. THESE EVENTS
WERE FRIGHTENING. FOR
ME AT LEAST.

YOU ACCOUNTED
WELL FOR YOUR-
SELF FROM WHAT
POLLY TOLD ME.

I BLASTED A WALL AND
A THUG. OH BOY, AM I
A GANGBUSTER OR
WHAT? I ALSO BURNED
MY HAND DOING IT.

YEAH, THE
GRAVITY ROD'S
TRICKY AT
FIRST.

I'LL BE HAPPY
NOT KNOWING.
I'LL BE HAPPY
LOVING A LAZY
CHARMER.

I THINK.

THIS
WORLD...
IT ISN'T
MINE.

I LOVE YOU, DORIS. TED
AND STARMAN... BOTH
SIDES OF THE SAME MAN...
WE LOVE YOU WITH
ALL OUR HEART.

I HOPE FOR A
TIME WHEN YOU
WON'T FEEL THAT WAY.
THAT'S THE DAY WE CAN
BE TOGETHER... TRULY
TOGETHER, WITHOUT
THE LIES.

That day -- that future
time I spoke of and hoped
for, never came.

Doris learned the truth
about me on her own,
years later.

And then she died.

But on this day --
this strange day of
spur-of-the-moment
actions and girls and
men --

-- Doris Lee was
"Starman" --

-- or "Stargirl" if you want
to get technical --

-- and she faced the perils
she encountered with fear,
perhaps -- but she didn't
falter.

That's the mark
of a hero.

Doris Lee -- who for one
day only wore the red and
green.



"DORIS LEE WAS BRAVE."



"AND MY WIFE,"
TED THINKS,
"THE SECOND
DORIS I LOVED.
SHE DIED BY
INCHES, NEVER
LOSING HER
GRACE."

"I SHALL DO NO LESS. AND NOT
IN A HOSPITAL BED."

"I HAVE LIVED... MOST OF MY
LIFE... DEFENDING OPAL'S
STREETS... ITS SKIES."



"IT'S THE
BEST
DEATH
I CAN
IMAGINE."



WE KNOW OUR TASKS,
CATS AND KITTENS.

WE KNOW WHAT
LIES AHEAD... THE
DANGERS.

I'M
SCARED,
JACK.

SO AM I,
BABY. MEANS
WE'RE SANE
IS ALL.



WE'LL BRING
SOME SANITY TO
CULP'S HORDE. MAKE
THEM SCARED,
TOO.



YOU GOT IT,
MAN. NOW LET'S
DO WHAT NEEDS
DOING...

... AND
GOD HELP
US ALL.





WHAT
WOULD YOU WILL
OF ME?

YOU MAKE NO
MENTION O' THE
CHANGE IN ME
LOOKS, SPOOK.



AS YOU
SAY, I'M A
GHOST. I SEE
THE SHAPE OF
MEN'S SOULS.

I KNEW THE TALL MAN
IN BLACK HAD YOUR SOUL
ABIDING WITHIN HIM ALONG
WITH HIS OWN.



FRANKLY, I'M RELIEVED TO KNOW ME N'DICKIE
MANAGED TO 'ANG ON TO 'EM AT ALL.



WHY AM I
HERE?

YOU'RE VITAL,
YOU ARE. THE
LINCHPIN.

TO WHAT?



THE END.

Grand Guignol Dixieme Partie

The agents of good and evil do battle. Jack and Culp have a fateful confrontation. Ted Knight and Dr. Phosphorus, Round Three. And Bobo does the samba with some bad guys in

FEINT, PARRY, LUNGE



Deadman Wade

"THIS IS WHAT
AWESOME
LOOKS LIKE".

DCP